MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: Experimental farms are conducted on Government lands.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether there is any case in which these experiments are being carried on in the property of individual land owners?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: They are only demonstrations.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know how many experimental farms are there in the State?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: There are nine experimental farms

Bunchy top disease.

509. ✻ MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the area affected by the bunchy top disease to plantains;

(*b*) the number of plantains destroyed by the department for checking the disease;

(*c*) the cost incurred by the department in this work; and

(*d*) the amount of compensation actually given to cultivators?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: (*a*) About 300 sq. miles.

(*b*) 5,60,553 plantains till the end of Edavom 1121.

(*c*) Rs. 40,083-22-0 up to the end of Edavom 1121.

(*d*) Nil.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know whether the bunchy top disease is still prevailing in any area?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: Yes, Sir, it is prevalent in certain areas.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know whether all the plantains in the prescribed areas have been destroyed?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: No, Sir.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know whether any compensation was given to the owners who have destroyed their plantations?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: The answer is given.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know why that compensation was not given to the owners even though this House itself decided to give compensation in such cases?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: They did it voluntarily for the common good.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the member is aware that this House has accepted a motion that they will be paid compensation?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: No, Sir.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: The member is not aware of that?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: No.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether there was any application for compensation from cultivators?

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MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: I am not aware.

Kari Nilam in the Ambalapuzhah taluk.

510. ❋MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have made any attempt in making the Kari Nilam in the Ambalapuzha taluk productive; and

(*b*) if so, the ways and means used in such attempt?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Investigations were made with a view to finding out the main factors responsible for the failure of crops in Kari lands such as high acidity, abnormal deficiency in phosphoric acid, presence of inorganic toxins like ferrous iron and active Aluminium, defective drainage and toxic concentration of water soluble alkali salts. The application of suitable doses of lime and phosphatic fertilisers and systematic washing out of accumulated salts were found to be effective methods to reclaim the areas for paddy cultivation.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether the member is aware that vast acres of Kari lands are lying idle in Thottappally?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Almost all the lands have been brought under cultivation.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: That is not correct. Vast acres are lying idle.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Some lands are cultivated annually and some biennially. The member must have seen those lands which have been kept idle as they are cultivated biennially.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether the Director will advise them so that those lands may be reclaimed and cultivated?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The answer is given already.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know the special circumstances under which these lands are kept uncultivated?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Because they were under continuous cultivation for three or four years and it is necessary to allow them not for a year or two if cultivation were to be economic.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Is it on account of excessive cultivation? Is it not because the price of paddy given to the cultivator was not commensurate with the expenses of cultivation?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Is it the view that the cultivators will suffer actual losses?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir, that is the case.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Is it due to the price level now fixed for paddy?

PRESIDENT: I may say this at once. These lands were in the past, not cultivated annually but biennially. On account of the scarcity of the food materials they are definitely forced to cultivate and they have been cultivating continuously for three or four years. If again continuous cultivation is resorted to, a large number of years, it will be neither good for the land nor profitable to the cultivator.

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